

What is claimed is:

1. An air filter assembly, comprising:  
a housing having an inlet and an outlet;  
a hydrocarbon filter element disposed within the housing, said  
5 hydrocarbon filter element comprising a hydrocarbon adsorbent member  
capable of adsorbing hydrocarbons from fluid flow past said hydrocarbon filter  
element at a first flow rate and adsorbed hydrocarbons being released into fluid  
flow past said hydrocarbon filter element at a second flow rate, said second flow  
rate being higher than said first flow rate.  
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2. The air filter assembly as in claim 1, wherein said hydrocarbon filter  
element is positioned such that fluid can flow from said inlet to said outlet  
without passing through said hydrocarbon filter element.
- 15 3. The air filter assembly as in claim 1, wherein said hydrocarbon filter  
element is positioned such that a surface of said hydrocarbon filter element is in  
a facing spaced relationship with respect a surface of said housing and another  
surface of said hydrocarbon filter element is in a facing spaced relationship with  
respect an air filter disposed in said housing.  
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4. The air filter assembly as in claim 3, wherein said air filter is positioned  
such that fluid must flow through said air filter when flowing from said inlet to  
said outlet.
- 25 5. The air filter assembly as in claim 4, wherein said hydrocarbon filter  
element is positioned such that fluid can flow from said inlet to said outlet  
without passing through hydrocarbon filter element.